

SUMMARY

This house should be considered significant as an individual structure as well as a component in a group of buildings that constitute one of Harford County's important villages.

Darlington is a collection of predominantly 19th century buildings which string along Rt. 163 or the old Darlington Road. This structure stands directly on the west side of the road at the north end of town and although it is much older than its neighbors its Victorian exterior is a major contributor to what is basically a 19th century streetscape. Harford County is basically rural, is undergoing significant urbanization and this stretch of the Darlington Road is one of its important streetscapes.

As an individual structure this house is important for its early construction technique and its multiple stylistic elements. The main block consists of a post-and-beam structure with a three bay center hall plan. It is relatively rare due to the fact that the corner posts and plates are visible from the interior and that the frame was covered with thick 2" by 16" continuous planks as an undersheathing. If this method of construction was ever common its examples are rare today.

Along with this element of importance is the fact that the interior appointments of this house run a full gamut of styles. Window and door mouldings, chair rails, baseboards, doors etc. date from the late 18th century into the Federal period and represent the Victorian era as well as today.

MAGI # 1315865404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Harper Frame House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1130 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Darlington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21034

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS☒ ACCESSIBLE☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Jean S. Ewing

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

1130 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Darlington

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21034**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 962

Folio #: 440

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland 21014

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

7/15/78

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

#1130 Darlington Road stands close to the road on its west side and is one of the houses on the north side of the village. Circa 1920's stucco and Victorian alterations hide the fact that this is one of the oldest standing buildings in the area. It is a complex house with at least two, if not three principal stages in its evolution.

In its final form it is a two story dwelling, stucco over post and beam frame with an L-plan. The main block is three bays wide and two deep and its gable end roof runs north-south. The kitchen wing is also two stories runs along the north side and projects to the west and is the equivalent of three bays in length.

A full single story porch covers the front (east) or road facade and does not appear original. The fluted pilasters and chamfered columns are more Victorian in character than Federal and the tongue-and-groove ceiling has an awkward relationship with the transom above the centrally located entrance. A second partially enclosed porch occupied the ell of the kitchen wing, however it has been fully enclosed. Originally the central section of this double gallery had a 4'X12' room on the west end that housed a well and pump.

The fenestration of the house has been sporadically altered still leaving a fairly uniform system of openings but a selection of window types and material periods. Thick and heavily bubbled glass survives in the casement window that vent the gabled tall 2/2 windows on the first floor of the east facade survive from the Victorian renovation and these are both modern and Victorian era 6/6 elsewhere in the house.

Interior

The center hall L-plan is reflected on all three levels of the house although these are inconsistencies of construction materials, stylistic elements etc.

The basement is a full cellar which runs underneath the north parlor and kitchen wing. The lack of a cellar beneath the hall, the fact that the south cellar wall butts against the east wall (rather than being integrated into it, and the presence of a defunct 3'X2' trap door (made with wrought nails) in the north east corner of the kitchen suggest the possibility of an early root cellar having been expanded. The walls are coursed rubble which were whitewashed and they show no seams; they are 6'6" high between the puncheon supported floor above and the dirt floor of the cellar. They average 12" in thickness except for the north wall where it was tied into an exterior chimney. It is 20" thick at this point and one can also see that the sill was interrupted for a distance of approximately 50".

The only natural lighting in this area comes from two casement windows, one in the north end of the east wall and another in the west end of the north wall. There is a bulkhead on the north side of the northeast corner.

It is in this area that one can see several interesting features. The log joists, which are dressed on two sides, run transversely under the kitchen while they are longitudinal under the main block. The entire flooring system of the south parlour modern replacement. (See Description Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house should be considered significant as an individual structure as well as a component in a group of buildings that constitute one of Harford County's important villages.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Wayne L. Nield II, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning

DATE

October, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

838-6000 ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland 21014

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

HA-1586

Harper Frame House

130 Main Street

Darlington, Maryland 21034

There are separate transverse sills where the kitchen wing and main block meet. Between the two sills the bottoms of huge 16" wide by 2" thick planks can be seen (they can also be seen above the bulkhead in the north wall and in the gable in the attic.) These planks do not have battens and are attached to the post-and-beam frame with an as yet unidentified type of nail. They appear to be continuous to the uppermost plates and grates. The west side of the main block sill also contains riven laths attached with cut nails and thick hair plaster. This latter feature suggests a finished interior surface on the west side of the main block west wall which preceeds the placement of the present east kitchen sill. The possible explanations are numerous, i.e. 1) The present kitchen replaces an earlier lean-to, 2) the kitchen sill was installed at a later date than the main block, 3) a kitchen lean-to was original to the house et. al. Any of these possibilities is complicated by the presence of the apparently early trap door in the north east corner of the kitchen.

First Level Interior:

A center hall with flanking parlours and a rear kitchen wing constitute an L-plan. The ceilings of this level are 7' 10" high. In modern times, however, the south hall partition has been removed thus destroying the feeling of a center hall and porch enclosures give a rambling feeling that the relatively symmetrical L-plan did not.

Much early fabric remains in the main block. In the south hall parlour the windows have been Victorianized and then modernized thus leaving 2/2 windows in the east wall and 6/6 in the others and there are plain mouldings. The floor has been replaced as have most of the baseboards, however, a very nice Federal chair rail survives as do the early architrave door frames. The doors themselves are 6 panel flush with the frame on the 'back' of the doors and beveled and sunken in the other. Another obviously early feature of this room is the fact that the outline of corner posts and an end plate are very visible.

The hall originally had such doors at each end, the east entrance still has a transom and there is evidence that the west entrance once did. The parlours were entered by doors in the approximate middle of the dividing walls. At the west end of the hall on the north side an enclosed winder stairway leads to the second level.

The north parlour has an even earlier appearance than the other rooms, possibly because it contains the most early fabric. Flooring containing three different types of nails insists of random width stuff. Again corner posts and a side plate are visible and there is a 6" wide chair rail beaded on top and bottom. There are the same doors and mouldings.

Also evident in this room in the middle or the north wall is an earlier massive fireplace that was served by an exterior chimney. A plain chimney piece which may have had its shelf replaced has an opening 51" wide by 43" high. The frieze is 13-1/2" wide, there are 10" side panels and the present shelf is 6-1/2" deep, 1-3/4" thick, 6' long and is supported by two curvilinear brackets. The hearth has been replaced by wooden flooring.

HA-1586

Harper Frame House

1130 Main Street

Darlington, Maryland 21034

There are two periods of baseboard including an earlier beaded type and a later Victorian beveled type. The present interior access to the basement is in the south west corner of this room. It is an enclosed well that is early in construction but not necessarily original. The joists in the area have been carved out to accomodate the steps and machine cut materials are used in the framing. These stairs make the nearby hatch entrance obsolete.

In the stairwell one can see a massive corner post, fully exposed with its trunnels, etc.

Where the kitchen is entered from this room, in the middle of the west wall, there is a doorway containing a batten door mounted on iron spade-end straps and pintles. The door is made of random width tongue-and-groove with batten fixed with wrought nails.

Whether the kitchen wing framing is original or not there is little in the way of finishing material, decorative elements etc. that is not Victorian or later. A single feature that is seemingly early in nature, however, is the cooking fireplace located in the northwest corner of the room. Complete with forged crane this shouldered chimney seems to predate the wood and coal cook stoves common at least by the mid 19th century. The fireplace projects 32" from the west wall, 65" from the north wall and has an opening that is 44" wide and 42" high. The opening has a flat iron lintel. This feature along with the post-and-beam framing of this wing point to a relatively early construction date i.e. pre late Victorian.

The upper levels of this house, that is the second floor and attic, contain early features, some of which are problematic in terms of explaining original appearance.

On the second level it was noticed that in every room including the kitchen wing but excepting the room over the south parlour the flooring consists of extremely wide random width boards (up to 16'). In the south room they are more uniform and a narrower 3-1/4" - 6" wide. This room has a trapezoidal or bay ceiling and curiously enough does not reveal the corner posts or plates seen below as in the adjoining rooms. Interior measurements suggest that the "exposed" frame does not continue into the south half of the house on the second level although attic examination suggests a continuous plate. The earlier beaded baseboard is found here but the windows, the sills of which are only 1' above the floor have later flush trim.

The rest of the main block is divided into a hall and two rather small rooms one of which has been converted into a modern bathroom. The double cross doors are found throughout the house although there are two distinct periods, one with a flush back and the other with sunken panels on both sides.

The west wing, or second floor kitchen area, suggests the likelihood of a small corner fireplace served by the chimney of the cooking fireplace below. The hallway connecting the upper rooms of the main block with this area above the kitchen has a south door leading to a sleeping porch or upper gallery that is at least as old as the Victorian renovation which the whole house underwent.

The attic is at once as informative and problematical as the second level. It is entered by a trap door in the north room that is now a bath. The hatch is constructed of wrought nails.

(Description Continuation Sheet #3)

HA-1586

Harper Frame House

The truss system consists of two periods of rafters with the earliest being roughly hewn lapped and pegged at the ridge.

Studs with 20' centers are observed in the north gable end for the second story wall below. 2' by 16' planks corresponding to those below are seen in the same place.

A small opening has been cut through the west side of the roof where the kitchen wing meets it. It allows one to see that the present nailers of the main roof in that area show no signs of having held shingles or of weathering. One can see too that the early rafters were notched to fit the plate and one rafter appears to have a nail with wrought head at this point. The eaves were boxed in with soffit feathered in the upper side presumably to accomodate the angle of the bottom row of shingles. The soffit found is 7' wide, 3/4" thick. The plate is 8' thick, 6' wide and the rafter extends 10' beyond it.

The average joist is 2' X 5' and is nailed into the sides of the rafters. They are fixed into the plates. A thicker joist, 3 1/2' by 6' is in between the third and fourth truss from the north gable and locked into it, 12' from the eaves is the top of a mechanically sawn 3' by 6' upright. These are on both the east and west ends of the joist and these are presumably the framing posts of the hall partition.

Title Search
HA-1595

These two houses have always
been on the same parcel of ground,
until the lot was subdivided in
1981

1. HDC 962/440 November 15, 1978
Grantor: Jimmie Miller
Grantee: Jean S. Ewart
Acreage: 0.78
2. HDC 944/657 January 31, 1974
Grantor: Albert Silver Executive
for estate of Isabel Bro
Grantee: Jimmie D. Miller
3. Will REcord TLA 33/610 June 13, 1973
Will of Isabel Brown - "Jimmie Miller shall have the option to purchase the land improved by two dwellings, one frame, one stucco, which I inherited from my aunt Ann J. Hopkins." Cost is \$10,000 payable in 6 months time.
4. GCB 259/70 December 29, 1939
Grantor: Anna J. Hopkins - unmarried
Grantee: Isabel Brown
Acreage: 1
Isabel Brown assumed Mortgage of \$1500.00 from A. Hopkins to Charles and Adelaide Bull
5. Mortgage GCB 256/375 September 6, 1939
Grantor: Anna J. Hopkins
Grantee: Charles and Adelaide Bull
Acreage: 1
Sum: \$1500.00
Anna Hopkins indebted for sum of \$1,500.00 mortgage for one year at 5% interest.
6. SWC 223/533 September 6, 1932
Grantor: John Robinson, Assignee
Grantee: Anna J. Hopkins
Acreage: 3/4's more or less
Sum: \$1,200.00
Purchased at Public Sale held August 1, 1932 - John Robinson
7. Mortgage - DGW 214/237 August 28, 1929
Grantor: Sarah E. Harper, feme sole and Sallie W. Harper, her sole, sometimes known as Sarah W. Harper
Acreage: 3/4's more or less
Sum: \$1,200.00
Two year mortgage.

TITLE SEARCH(CONTINUED)

HARPER LOG HOUSE

HA-1595

8. DGW 186/444 April 5, 1924 Grantor: Sarah E. Harper, feme-sole of Harford County, and Sarah W. Harper, feme sole of Philadelphia, Pa.
 Grantee: Trustees of Deer Creek Lodge #38, Independent Order of Odd Fellows
 Acreage: 3 45/100's more or less
 Land surrounding houses is sold. A property line follows a "fence enclosing the two houses and lots reserved and retained by the said Grantors.
 The houses were willed to various members of the Harper family between 1879 and 1910

WILL RECORDS

CSW 17/100 April 26, 1910 Ella Harper leaves her estate to her sister: Sallie. (Ella's parents were William W. and Sarah W. Harper).

CSW 17/103 November 3, 1902 William Harper (of Philadelphia) appoints Ella and Sallie W. Harper as his executors without appraisement or security

WSR 10/271 March 5, 1881 Hannah Harper leaves to son William W. and daughter Sarah E. Harper the "land and houses in the Village of Darlington which I now reside in to be equally divided among them."

WSR 9/228 1879 Samuel Harpers will, drawn up in 1876, makes his wife Hannah sole inheritor and executive of his estate.

Marriage Licenses WSF 1/73 4/3/1833 Samue Harper marries Hannah Watson
 The house stands on part of a tract called "Phillips Purchase" which was patented in 1683 John Philips and contained approximately 2000 acres.

C. Milton Wright - Our Harford Heritage P. 21

HA-1586
Harper Frame House
1130 Main Street (MD 161),
Darlington
Harford County Dept. of Planning
map from aerial photos taken
March, 1990

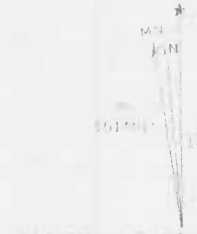


Map, and published by the Geological Survey
USGS and USC&GS

Drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
Topography by plane-table surveys, 1939 and 1940

Projection. 1927 North American datum
Grids based on Maryland coordinate system,
Virginia coordinate system, south zone
Universal Transverse Mercator grid lines
shown in blue

Map compiled from
1970. This information



GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH
CLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

CONTOUR IN
DATUM IS M

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NAT
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MA

CONOWINGO DAM
QUAD
7.5 Minute Series



HA-1586

Harper Frame House

Darlington, Md.

Phillip R. Lord 10/80

West



HA-1586

Harper Frame House
Darlington, Md.

Phillip R. Lord
Southeast

10/80



HA-1586

Harper Frame House

Darlington, Md.

Phillip R. Lord 10/80

North